

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 8 are amended and claims 3 and 4 are cancelled. Support for the changes to claim 1 can be found in claims 3 and 4 as well as in paragraph [0033] of the specification. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to depend from claim 1, and claim 8 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Claims 1, 2 and 5-13 are presented for further examination.

The indefiniteness rejection of claim 8 is believed overcome by the foregoing amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1, 3 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Kudlaty, US 3,592,766, the rejection of claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kudlaty in view of Pall, US 3,246,766, the rejection of claims 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kudlaty in view of Jackson, GB 1,027,335, and the rejection of claims 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kudlaty in view of Hobson, US 3,642,141 are respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the essential features of both claim 3 and claim 4, and further to require that the at least one stay having a length-compensating section is secured with legs positioned to be symmetrical with an axis of symmetry that runs perpendicular to the longitudinal central axis of the central tube. The structure of the central tube recited in amended claim 1 is not reasonably disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

Kudlaty does not disclose or suggest a filter insert having a central tube formed by rings joined together by stays. The Office Action asserts that elements 16,17 of Kudlaty read on the claimed stays. Applicants respectfully disagree. Rather, elements 16, 17 are threaded rings. As defined by Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Ed., a ring is a "circular band" while a stay is akin to a stake, post or pole that serves as a prop or support. A copy of the relevant dictionary citations is attached as Appendix A. Pointedly, the threaded rings 16,17 of

Kudlaty are not stays and thus the assembly of Kudlaty cannot anticipate claim 1.

Further, Kudlaty does not teach a filter insert having a variable length central tube, much less a stay having a length-compensating section. Rather, Kudlaty merely teaches that rings 16, 17 are engagable in order to provide for the assembly and disassembly of the filter element structure (column 3, lines 66-69). Finally, even assuming *arguendo* that the elements 16, 17 are stays, neither of these elements are secured with symmetrical legs, as required by claim 1. Because Kudlaty fails to teach or suggest all the claimed elements, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is improper and should be withdrawal.

The additionally cited references of Pall, Jackson, and Hobson, whether considered separately, in combination with each other, or in combination with Kudlaty, also fail to reasonably teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

Claim 1, in pertinent part, relates to a filter insert comprising an annular filter element. The filter element has a central channel in which a central tube is situated. The central tube is formed by rings arranged perpendicular to the longitudinal central axis of the central tube, and has a variable length along its longitudinal central axis. The rings are joined together by stays. At least one of the stays has a length-compensating section with a resilient structure and is secured with legs positioned to be symmetrical with an axis of symmetry that runs perpendicular to the longitudinal central axis of the central tube.

Pall, which was cited for disclosing filter insert materials, discloses a core section comprising a folded sheet of stainless steel and does not disclose or suggest a central tube that is formed by rings joined together by stays, much less a central tube having a variable length.

Hobson discloses a support frame 21 including a plurality of diamond-shaped holes extending through its walls (column 4, lines 22-23). The structure of Hobson does not include a central tube that is formed by rings joined together in an axial direction by stays. Further, the support frame of Hobson does not have a variable length, but instead "has limited inherent resiliency" (column 3,

lines 55-56). Applicants note that the pervious filter tube 19 of Hobson, which is slid over the frame 21, may expand and contract (column 3, lines 37-55). With respect to claim 6, which requires that at least one stay runs in a spiral pattern around the central tube, the helical wire coil disclosed by Hobson is not formed around a central tube.

Finally, Jackson discloses a support 1 formed from a strip 4 of sheet steel which is stamped to form in it a series of elongated openings (page 2, lines 4-7). However, this support is not formed by rings joined together by stays.

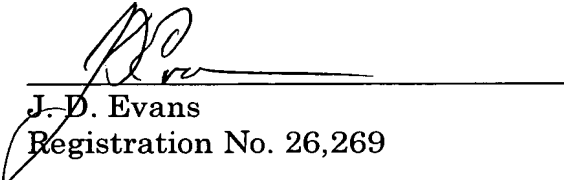
Because the combination of structural features recited in claim 1 is not taught or suggested by any combination of the cited references, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2845 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037141.53154US).

Respectfully submitted,

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duct). RIGOROUS implies the imposition of hardship and difficulty (the rigorous training of recruits); STRICT emphasizes undeviating conformity to rules, standards, or requirements (strict enforcement of the law). STRINGENT suggests severe, tight restriction or limitation (stringent standards of admission). *syn* see in addition STIFF.

rigid \ri-'gi-də-, -fē\ *vb* -fied; -fy-ing *v* (1842): to make rigid ~ *vi* to become rigid — **rigid-i-fi-ca-tion** \ri-'gi-də-'fē-'kā-shən\ *n*

rigid-i-ty \ri-'gi-də-'tē\ *n*, *pl* -ties (1624) 1: the quality or state of being rigid 2: one that is rigid (as in form or conduct)

rig-ma-role also **rig-a-ma-role** \ri-'gə-'mā-'rōl, -'rīg-'mā-'\ *n* [alter. of obs. *ragman* roll long list, catalog] (ca. 1736) 1: confused or meaningless talk 2: a complex and sometimes ritualistic procedure

rig-or \ri-'gər\ *n* [ME *rigour*, fr. AF, fr. L *rigor*, lit., stiffness; fr. *rigere* to be stiff] (14c) 1: harsh inflexibility in opinion, temper, or judgment 2: severity (2): the quality of being unyielding or inflexible 3: severity of life 4: AUSTERITY *b*: an act or instance of strictness, severity, or cruelty 2: a tremor caused by a chill 3: a condition that makes life difficult, challenging, or uncomfortable; *esp*: extremity of cold 4: strict precision 5: EXACTNESS (logical ~) 5 *a* *obs*: RIGIDITY, STIFFNESS *b*: rigidity or torpor of organs or tissue that prevents response to stimuli *c*: RIGOR MORTIS

rig-or-ism \ri-'gə-, -rī-'zəm\ *n* (1704): rigidity in principle or practice — **rig-or-ist** \ri-'gə-, -rī-'st\ *n* or *adj* — **rig-or-ist-ic** \ri-'gə-'ris-'tik\ *adj*

rig-or-mor-tis \ri-'gər-'mōr-'tās\ also *chiefly* Brit, \ri-'gōr-'\ *n* [NL; stiffness of death] (1847): temporary rigidity of muscles occurring after death

rig-or-ous \ri-'gə-'rās\ *adj* (15c) 1: manifesting, exercising, or favoring rigor: very strict 2 *a*: marked by extremes of temperature or climate *b*: HARSH, SEVERE 3: scrupulously accurate — **PRECISE** *syn* see RIGID — **rig-or-ous-ly** *adv* — **rig-or-ous-ness** *n*

rig-or *chiefly* Brit *var* of RIGOR

riist-ta-fel \ri-'is-, -tā-'fēl\ *n* [D, fr. *riist* rice + *tafel* table] (1889): an Indonesian meal consisting of rice and a variety of accompanying dishes (as meat, seafood, and vegetables)

Riks-mål or **Riks-maal** \riks-'mōl, -'rēks-\ *n* [Norw, fr. *rik* kingdom + *mål*: speech] (1913): BOKMÅL

rile \ri-'al\ *v* -riled; -riling [var. of *roil*] (1624) 1: to make agitated and angry: UPSET 2: ROIL 1 *syn* see IRRITATE

rill-ey \ri-'lē\ *adj* (1805) 1: TURBID 2: ANGRY

rill \ri-'l\ *n* [D *ril* or LG *rille*; akin to OE *riih*: rivulet] (1538): a very small brook

rill *vi* (1610): to flow like a rill

rill \ri-'l\ or **rille** \ri-'l\ *n* [G *Rille*, lit., channel made by a small stream, fr. LG *rill*] (1868): any of several long narrow valleys on the moon's surface

rill-et \ri-'lāt\ *n* (1538): a little rill

rill-ettes \ri-'lēt-, -'yet\ *n* *pl* [F, *pl.*, dim. of *rille*, sing., piece of pork, fr. MF, dial. var. of *reille* board, lath, fr. L *regula* straightedge — more at RULE] (1889): cooked shredded meat (as pork or duck) or fish preserved in fat

rim \rim\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *rima*; akin to ON *rimi* strip of land] (13c) 1 *a*: BRINK *b*: the outer often curved or circular edge or border of something 2 *a*: the outer part of a wheel joined to the hub *usu.* by spokes *b*: a removable outer metal band on an automobile wheel to which the tire is attached 3: FRAME 4c(1) — **rim-less** \-lās\ *adj*

rim *vb* rimmed; rim-ming *vi* (1621) 1: to run around the rim of (putts that ~ the cup) 2: to serve as a rim for: BORDER (cliffs rim-ming the camp) ~ *vi* to form or show a rim

rim \rim\ *n* [ME *rim*, fr. OE *hrim*; akin to ON *hrim* frost] (bef. 12c) 1: FROST 1b 2: an accumulation of granular ice tufts on the windward sides of exposed objects that is formed from supercooled fog or cloud and built out directly against the wind 3: CRUST, INCRUSTATION (a ~ of snow)

rim *v* rimmed; rim-ming (ca. 1755): to cover with or as if with rime

rim, **rimester** *var* of RHYME, RHYMESTER

rim-fire \rim-'fī-(ə)\ *adj* (1866) of a cartridge: having the priming distributed in the rim of the shell — **rim-fire** *n*

rim-land \rim-'land\ *n* (1944): a region on the edge of the heartland

rimmed \rim-'d\ *adj* (1729): having a rim — *usu.* used in combination (dark-rimmed glasses) (red-rimmed eyes)

rim-rock \rim-'rāk\ *n* (1860) 1: a top stratum or overlying strata of resistant rock of a plateau that outcrops to form a vertical face 2: the edge or face of a rimrock outcrop

rimy \ri-'mē\ *adj* rim-i-er; -est (bef. 12c): covered with rime: FROSTY

rim \rim\ *n* [ME, fr. OE, fr. OE *rima*; akin to OHG *rima* bark, and prob. to OE *rendan* to rend] (bef. 12c) 1: the bark of a tree 2: a usu. hard or tough outer layer: PEEL, CRUST (grated lemon ~) — **rim-ded** \rim-'dēd\ *adj*

rin-der-pest \rin-'dər-'pest\ *n* [G, fr. *Rinder*, *pl.*, cattle + *Pest* pestilence] (1865): an acute infectious usu. fatal disease of ruminant mammals (as cattle) that is caused by a morbillivirus (species *Rinderpest virus*) and that is marked by fever, diarrhea, and inflammation of mucous membranes

ring \ring\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *hring*; akin to OHG *hring* ring, OCS *krōgŭ* circle] (bef. 12c) 1: a circular band for holding, connecting, hanging, pulling, packing, or sealing (a key ~) (a towel ~) 2: a circlet usu. of precious metal worn esp. on the finger 3 *a*: a circular line, figure, or object (smoke ~) *b*: an encircling arrangement (a ~ of suburbs) *c*: a circular or spiral course — often used figuratively in *pl.* in the phrase *run rings around* to describe surpassing an opponent decisively 4 *a* (1): an often circular space esp. for exhibitions or competitions; *esp*: such a space at a circus (2): a structure containing such a ring *b*: a square enclosure in which a fighting contest (as a boxing or wrestling match) takes place 5: a band of small objects revolving around a planet (as Saturn) and composed of dust and icy or rocky fragments 6: ANNUAL RING 7 *a*: an exclusive combination of persons for a selfish and often corrupt purpose (as to control a market) (a wheat ~) *b*: GANG 8: the field of a political contest: RACE 9: food in the shape of a circle 10: an arrangement of atoms represented in formulas or models in a cyclic manner — called also *cycle* 11: a set of mathematical elements that is closed under two binary operations of which the first forms a commutative group with the set and the second is associative over the set and is distributive with respect to the first operation 12 *pl* *a*: a pair of usu. rubber-covered metal rings

suspended from a ceiling or crossbar to a height of approximately eight feet above the floor and used for hanging, swinging, and balancing feats in gymnastics *b*: an event in gymnastics competition in which the rings are used 13: BOXING (ended his ~ career) — **ring-like** \ring-'lik\ *adj*

ring *vb* ringed; ring-ing \ring-'ŋ\ *v* (14c) 1: to provide with a ring 2: to place or form a ring around: ENCIRCLE (police ~ed the building) 3: GIRDLE 2 4: to throw a ring over (the peg) in a game (as horseshoes or quoits) ~ *vi* 1 *a*: to move in a ring *b*: to rise in the air spirally 2: to form or take the shape of a ring

ring *vb* rang \rang\; rung \rang\; ring-ing \ring-'ŋ\ [ME, fr. OE *hringan* akin to ON *hringa* to ring] *v* (bef. 12c) 1: to sound resonantly or sonorously (the doorbell rang) (cheers rang out) 2 *a*: to be filled with a reverberating sound: RESOUND (the halls rang with laughter) *b*: to have the sensation of being filled with a humming sound (his ear rang) 3: to cause something to ring (the whole land rang with her fame) 4 *a*: to be filled with talk or report (the whole land rang with their praise in his ears) 5: to have a sound or character expressive of some quality (a story that ~s true) 6 *chiefly* Brit: to make a telephone call — *usu.* used with *up* ~ *vi* 1: to cause to sound esp. by striking 2: to make (a sound) by or as if by ringing a bell 3: to announce by or as if by ringing 4: to repeat often, loudly, or earnestly 5 *a*: to summon, esp. by bell *b* *chiefly* Brit: TELEPHONE — *usu.* used with *up* — **ring a bell**: to arouse a response (that name rings a bell) — **ring down the curtain**: to conclude a performance or an action — **ring off the hook**: to ring frequently or constantly with incoming calls (the telephone was ringing off the hook) — **ring the changes or ring changes**: to run through the range of possible variations — **ring up the curtain**: to begin a performance or an action

ring *n* (1549) 1: a set of bells 2: a clear resonant sound made by or resembling that made by vibrating metal 3: resonant tone: SONORITY 4: a loud sound continued, repeated, or reverberated 5: a sound or character expressive of some particular quality (the story had a ~miliar ~) 6: the act or an instance of ringing *b*: a telephone call (give me a ~ in the morning)

ring-a-le-vio \ring-'ā-'lē-vē-, -vō\ or **ring-a-lie-vō** \-lē-(j)ē-vō\ *n* [alter. of earlier *ring relieve*, fr. *ring* + *relieve*] (ca. 1901): a game in which players on one team are given time to hide and are then sought out by members of the other team who try to capture them, keep them in a place of confinement, and keep them from being released by their teammates

ring-around-the-rosy \ring-'ə-, -raun(d)-thə-'rō-'zē\ also **ring-around-a-rosy** \-raun-də-\ *n* (1878): a children's singing game in which players dance around in a circle and at a given signal drop to the ground — called also *ring-a-rosy* \ring-'ə-'rō-'zē\

ring-bark \ring-'bārk\ *n* (1884): GIRDLE 2

ring-billed gull \ring-'bīld-'ŋ\ *n* (1844): a No. American gull (*Larus delawarensis*) that as an adult is largely white with a gray mantle, dark wing tips, yellowish feet and legs; and a yellow bill with a black ring toward the tip

ring binder *n* (1929): a loose-leaf binder in which split rings attached to a back hold the perforated sheets of paper

ring-bolt \ring-'bōlt\ *n* (1599): an eyebolt with a ring through its eye

ring-bone \ring-'bōn\ *n* (1523): a bony outgrowth on or near the articulating surface of the pastern or coffin bone of a horse that typically results from injury and usu. produces lameness

ring dance *n* (1600): ROUND DANCE 1

ring-dove \ring-'dāv\ *n* (1538) 1: WOOD PIGEON 2

ringed turtle dove

ringed adj (1513) 1: encircled or marked with or as if with rings 2: composed or formed of rings

ringed turtle dove *n* (1983): a small pale dove (*Streptopelia risoria*) that has a black ring around the sides and back of the neck, exists chiefly in domestication as a cage bird, and is prob. of African origin

ring-er \ring-'ər\ *n* (15c) 1: one that sounds esp. by ringing 2 *a* (1): one that enters a competition under false representations (2): IMPOSTER, FAKE *b*: one that strongly resembles another — often used with *dead* (he's a dead ~ for the senator)

ringer *n* (1863): one that encircles or puts a ring around (as a quail or horseshoe that lodges so as to surround the peg)

Ring-er's solution \ring-'ərz-\ *n* [Sidney Ringer †1910 Eng. physician] (1893): a balanced aqueous solution that contains chloride, sodium, potassium, calcium, bicarbonate, and phosphate ions and that is used in physiological experiments to provide a medium essentially isotonic to many animal tissues — called also *Ringer solution*

ring finger *n* (bef. 12c): the third finger esp. of the left hand counting the index finger as the first

ring-gilt \ring-'git\ *n*, *pl* ringgits or ringgits [Malay, lit., serration, with milled edge] (1967) — see MONEY table

ringing adj (14c) 1: clear and full in tone: RESOUNDING (a ~ battle-tone) 2: vigorously unequivocal: DECISIVE (a ~ condemnation of immorality) — **ring-ing-ly** \ring-'ŋ\ *adv*

ring-leader \ring-'lē-'dər\ *n* (1503): a leader of a ring of individuals engaged esp. in improper or unlawful activities

ring-let \ring-'lət\ *n* (1555) 1: a small ring or circle 2: CURL; esp. long curl of hair

ring-master \ring-'mas-'tər\ *n* (1859): one in charge of performance a ring (as of a circus); broadly: a supervisor, or moderator esp. of a performance or presentation (the ~ of a talk show)

ring-neck \ring-'nek\ *n* (1791): a ring-necked animal

ring-necked \ring-'nek\ or **ring-neck** \ring-'nek\ *adj* (1817): having a ring of color about the neck

ring-necked duck *n* (1831): a No. American duck (*Aythya collaris*) that has a white ring around the bill and in the male a faint narrow chestnut ring encircling the neck

ring-necked pheasant *n* (1834): a Eurasian pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) that has been widely introduced as a game bird in No. America and in which the males have a white neck ring and an iridescent green and purplish head with red wattles around the eyes

ring off *vi* (1882) *chiefly* Brit: HANG UP 1



ringb.

- stato-cyst** \ˈstɑːtə-sist/ *n* [ISV] (1902): an organ of equilibrium occurring esp. among invertebrate animals and consisting usu. of a fluid-filled vesicle lined with sensory hairs that detect the position of suspended statoliths
- stato-lith** \ˈstɑːtə-lith/ *n* [ISV] (1900): 1: any of the usu. calcareous bodies suspended in the plant cytoplasm that are held to be responsible by changes in their position for changes in orientation of a part or organ
- sta-tor** \ˈstɑːtər/ *n* [NL; fr. L. one that stands, fr. *stare* to stand — more at STAND] (1902): a stationary part in a machine in or about which a rotor revolves
- stato-scope** \ˈstɑːtə-skəp/ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1900): a sensitive aneroid barometer for recording small changes in atmospheric pressure; esp. one used for indicating small changes in the altitude of an aircraft
- stat-u-ary** \ˈstɑːtə-wer-ē/ *n*, *pl* -ar-ies (1542): 1: SCULPTOR 2: a: the art of making statues; b: a collection of statues; STATUES
- statuary** \ˈstɑːtjəri/ *n* [ME, fr. AF *estature*, *statue*; fr. L *statua*, fr. *statuere* to set up — more at STATUTE] (14c): a three-dimensional representation usu. of a person, animal, or mythical being that is produced by sculpturing, modeling, or casting
- Statue of Liberty** (1887): 1: a large copper statue of a woman holding a torch aloft in her right hand located on Liberty Island in New York harbor 2: a trick play in football in which the ballcarrier takes the ball from the raised hand of a teammate who is faking a pass
- stat-u-esque** \ˈstɑːtə-wesk/ *adj* (1834): resembling a statue esp. in dignity, shapeliness, or stillness; esp.: having a tall and shapely form < a actress > — **stat-uesque-ly** *adv*
- stat-u-ette** \ˈstɑːtə-wet/ *n* (1840): a small statue
- stat-ure** \ˈstɑːtʃər/ *n* [ME, fr. AF *estature*, *statue*; fr. L *statūra*, fr. *status*, pp. of *stare* to stand — more at STAND] (14c): 1: natural height (as of a person) in an upright position 2: quality or status gained by growth, development, or achievement
- sta-tus** \ˈstɑːtəs, ˈstɑːn/ *n*, *pl* sta-tus-es often attrib [L — more at STATE] (ca. 1630): 1: a position or rank in relation to others < the ~ of a father > 2: relative rank in a hierarchy of prestige; esp.: high prestige 3: the condition of a person or thing in the eyes of the law 4: state or condition with respect to circumstances < the ~ of the negotiations >
- status offender** *n* (1975): a young offender (as a runaway or a truant) who is under the jurisdiction of a court for repeated offenses that are not crimes
- status quo** \ˈkwɒ-ˈkwɒ/ *n* [L, state in which] (1807): the existing state of affairs < seeks to preserve the status quo >
- status quo ante** \ˈan-tē/ *n* [L, state in which previously] (1877): the state of affairs that existed previously
- sta-tus-y** \ˈstɑːtə-sē/ *adj* (1962): having; showing; or conferring prestige < a ~ job >
- stat-ut-able** \ˈstɑːtə-tə-bəl/ *adj* (1636): made; regulated; or imposed by or in conformity to statute: STATUTORY < ~ tonnage >
- stat-ute** \ˈstɑːtjūt, ˈstæt/ *n* [ME, fr. AF *estatut*; fr. LL *statutum* law, regulation, fr. L neut. of *statutus*, pp. of *statuere* to set up, station; fr. *status* position, state] (14c): 1: a law enacted by the legislative branch of a government 2: an act of a corporation or of its founder intended as a permanent rule 3: an international instrument setting up an agency and regulating its scope or authority — **syn** see LAW
- statute book** *n* (1593): the whole body of legislation of a given jurisdiction whether or not published as a whole — **usu**: used in pl.
- statute mile** *n* (1719): MILE 1a
- statute of limitations** (1768): a statute assigning a certain time after which rights cannot be enforced by legal action or offenses cannot be punished
- stat-u-to-ry** \ˈstɑːtə-tōr-ē/ *adj* (1766): 1: of or relating to statutes 2: enacted, created, or regulated by statute < a ~ age limit > — **stat-u-to-ri-ly** \ˈstɑːtə-tōr-ē-lē/ *adv*
- statutory rape** *n* (1898): sexual intercourse with a person who is below the statutory age of consent
- staunch** *var* of STANCH
- staunch** \ˈstɒntʃ, ˈstæntʃ/ *also* stanch \ˈstɒntʃ, ˈstæntʃ/ *adj* [ME, fr. AF *estanche*, fem. of *estanc*, fr. *estanche* to stanch — more at STANCH] (15c): 1: a: WATERTIGHT, SOUND b: strongly built: SUBSTANTIAL 2: steadfast in loyalty or principle < a ~ friend > — **syn** see FAITHFUL — **staunch-ly** *adv* — **staunch-ness** *n*
- stau-ro-lite** \ˈstɔːr-ə-līt/ *n* [F, fr. Gk *stauros* cross + *F-lite* — more at STEER] (ca. 1815): a mineral consisting of a basic silicate of iron and aluminum in prismatic orthorhombic crystals often twinned so as to resemble a cross — **stau-ro-lit-ic** \ˈstɔːr-ə-līt-ik/ *adj*
- stave** \ˈstæv/ *n* [ME, back-formation fr. *staves*, pl. of *staff*] (13c): 1: STAFF 2: any of the narrow strips of wood or narrow iron plates placed edge to edge to form the sides, covering, or lining of a vessel (as a barrel) or structure 3: STANZA 4: STAFF 3
- stave** *vb*, **staved or **stove** \ˈstɔv/; **staving** *vi* (ca. 1595): 1: to break in the staves of (a cask) 2: to smash a hole in < stave in the boat > also: to crush or break inward < staved in several ribs > 3: to drive, or thrust away ~ *vi* 1 *archaic*: to become stove in — **used** of a boat or ship 2: to walk or move rapidly**
- stave off** *vi* (1611): 1: to fend off < staving off creditors > 2: to ward off (as something adverse): FORESTALL < trying to stave off disaster >
- staves** *pl* of STAFF
- stav-u-dine** \ˈstav-yū-dēn/ *n* [sta- (of unknown origin) + -vudine (as in *zidovudine*)] (1992): DAT
- stay** \ˈstɑː/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *stæg*; akin to ON *stæg* stay] (bef. 12c): 1: a large strong rope usu. of wire used to support a mast 2: GUY
- stay** *vi* (1627): 1: to secure upright with or as if with stays 2: to incline (a mast) forward, aft, or to one side by the stays ~ *vi*: to go about: TACK
- stay** *vb*, **stayed** \ˈstæd/ *also* staid \ˈstæd/; **stay-ing** [ME, fr. AF *estai-er*, stem of *ester* to stand, stay, fr. L *stare* — more at STAND] *vi* (15c): 1: to stop going forward: PAUSE 2: to stop doing something: CEASE 3: to continue in a place or condition: REMAIN < ~ed up all night > < went for a short vacation but ~ed on for weeks > 4: put till I come back 5: to stand firm 6: to take up residence: LODGE 6: to keep even in a contest or rivalry < ~ with the leaders > 7: to call a poker bet without raising 8 *obs*: to be in waiting or attendance ~ *vi* 1: to wait for: AWAIT 2: to suck or remain with (as a race or trial of endurance) to the end — **usu**: used in the phrase *stay the course* 3: to remain during < ~ed the whole time > 4: to stop or delay the proceeding or advance of by or as if by interposing an obstacle: HALT < ~ an execution > b: to check the course of (as a disease): C: ALLAY, PACIFY < ~ed tempers > d: to quiet the hunger of temporarily — **syn** see DEFER
- stay** *n* (1536): 1: a: the action of halting: the state of being stopped b: a stopping or suspension of procedure or execution by judicial or executive order 2 *obs*: SELF-CONTROL, MODERATION 3: a residence or sojourn in a place 4: capacity for endurance
- stay** *n* [ME, fr. MF *estai*; of Gmc origin; akin to MD *stake* pole, MLG *stak* post, stake pole — more at STAKE] (14c): 1: one that serves as a prop: SUPPORT 2: a thin firm strip (as of plastic) used for stiffening a garment or part (as a shirt collar) 3: a corset stiffened with bones — **usu**: used in pl.
- stay** *vi* (1548): 1: to provide physical or moral support for: SUSTAIN 2: to fix on something as a foundation
- stay-at-home** \ˈstɑːt-ə-hòm/ *adj* (1806): remaining in one's residence, locality, or country; esp.: remaining at home esp. to tend to children and domestic duties while a spouse is at work < a ~ mother > — **c** stay-at-home *n*
- stay-er** \ˈstɑːər/ *n* (ca. 1580): one that stays; esp.: one that upholds or supports
- staying power** *n* (1859): capacity for continuing (as in existence, influence, or popularity) without weakening
- stay-sail** \ˈstɑː-səl, -səl/ *n* (1669): a fore-and-aft sail hoisted on a stay — **see** SAIL illustration
- STB abbr** [NL *sacrae theologiae baccalaureus*] bachelor of sacred theology; [NL *scientiae theologiae baccalaureus*] bachelor of theology
- std abbr** standard
- STD** \ˈsɛd-, ˈjē-dē/ *n* [sexually transmitted disease] (1976): any of various diseases or infections (as syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and genital herpes) that are usu. transmitted by direct sexual contact and that include some (as hepatitis B and AIDS) that may be contracted by other than sexual means
- STD abbr** [NL *sacrae theologiae doctor*] doctor of sacred theology
- ste** *abbr* [F *sainte*] saint (female)
- stead** \ˈsted/ *n* [ME *stede*, fr. OE; akin to OHG *stāt* place; OE *standan* to stand — more at STAND] (bef. 12c): 1 *obs*: LOCALITY, PLACE 2: ADVANTAGE — **used** chiefly in the phrase *to stand one in good stead* 3: the office, place, or function ordinarily occupied or carried out by someone or something else < acted in his brother's ~ >
- stead** *vi* (13c): to be of avail to: HELP
- stead-fast** \ˈsted-fast/ *also* -fast/ *adj* [ME *stedefast*, fr. OE *stedefast*, fr. *stede* + *fast* fixed, fast] (bef. 12c): 1: a: firmly fixed in place: IMMOVABLE b: not subject to change (the ~ doctrine of original sin — Ellen Glasgow) 2: firm in belief, determination, or adherence: LOYAL < her followers have remained ~ > — **syn** see FAITHFUL — **stead-fast-ly** *adv* — **stead-fast-ness** \ˈsted-fast-nəs/ *n*
- stead-ing** \ˈste-dɪŋ, -dɪŋ/ *n* [ME *steding*, fr. *stede* place, farm] (15c): 1: a small farm 2: chiefly Scot.: the service buildings or area of a farm
- steady** \ˈste-de/ *adj* **stead-i-er**; **-est** [ME *stedy*, fr. *stede*] (14c): 1: a: direct or sure in movement: UNFALTERING < a ~ hand > b: firm in position: FIXED < held the pole ~ > c: keeping nearly upright in a seaway < a ~ ship > 2: showing little variation or fluctuation: STABLE, UNIFORM < a ~ breeze > < ~ prices > 3: a: not easily disturbed or upset < ~ nerves > b (1): constant in feeling, principle, purpose, or attachment < ~ friends > (2): DEPENDABLE c: not given to dissipation: SOBER — **stead-i-ly** \ˈste-dē-lē/ *adv* — **stead-i-ness** \ˈste-dē-nəs/ *n*
- STEADY, EVEN, EQUABLE** mean not varying throughout a course or extent: **STEADY** implies lack of fluctuation or interruption of movement < steady progress >. **EVEN** suggests a lack of variation in quality or character < an even distribution >. **EQUABLE** implies lack of extremes or of sudden sharp changes < maintain an equable temper >
- steady** *vb*, **stead-ied**; **stead-y-ing** *vi* (1530): to make or keep steady ~ *vi*: to become steady: **stead-i-er** *n*
- steady** *adv* (ca. 1605): 1: in a steady manner: **STEADILY** 2: on the course set — **used** as a direction to the helmsman of a ship
- steady** *n*, *pl* **stead-ies** (1792): one that is steady: *specific*: a boyfriend or girlfriend with whom one goes steady
- steady state** *n* (1885): a state or condition of a system or process (as one of the energy states of an atom) that does not change in time; *broadly*: a condition that changes only negligibly over a specified time
- steady state theory** *n* (1948): a theory in astronomy: the universe has always existed and has always been expanding with hydrogen being created continuously — **compare** BIG BANG THEORY
- steak** \ˈstæk/ *n* [ME *steke*, fr. ON *steik*; akin to ON *stēikja* to roast on a stake, *stik* stick, stake — more at STICK] (15c): 1: a: a slice of meat cut from a fleshy part of a beef carcass b: a similar slice of a specified meat other than beef (ham ~) c: a cross-section slice of a large fish < swordfish ~ > 2: ground beef prepared for cooking or for serving in the manner of a steak (hamburger ~)
- steak house** *n* (1762): a restaurant whose specialty is beefsteak
- steak knife** *n* (1895): a table knife with a sharp often serrated blade
- steak tar-tare** \ˈtār-tār/ *n* [F *tartare* Tartar] (1911): highly seasoned ground beef eaten raw
- steal** \ˈstēl/ *vb*, **stole** \ˈstōl/; **sto-len** \ˈstō-lən/; **steal-ing** [ME *stelen*, fr. OE *stelan*, akin to OHG *stelan* to steal] *vi* (bef. 12c): 1: to take the property of another wrongfully and esp. as a habitual or regular practice 2: to come or go secretly; unobtrusively, gradually, or unexpectedly 3: to steal or attempt to steal a base ~ *vi* 1: a: to take or appropriate without right or leave and with intent to keep or make use of wrongfully < stole a car > b: to take away by force or unjust means < they've stolen our liberty > c: to take surreptitiously or without permission < ~ a kiss > d: to appropriate to oneself or beyond one's proper share: make oneself the focus of (~ the show) 2: a: to move, convey, or introduce secretly: SMUGGLE b: to accomplish in a concealed or unobserved manner < ~ a visit > 3: a: to seize, gain, or win by trickery, skill, or daring < a basketball player adept at ~ing the ball > < stole the election > b of a base runner: to reach (a base) safely stole by running and usu. catching the opposing team off-guard — **steal-able** \ˈstē-lə-bəl/ *adj* — **steal-er** *n* — **steal** a march on: to gain an